

February 11, 2005

**VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL**

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of the Radio-Television News Directors Association ("RTNDA"), I am writing to congratulate you on the introduction of the "Open Government Act." RTNDA is the world's largest professional organization devoted exclusively to electronic journalism. RTNDA represents local and network news executives in broadcasting, cable and other electronic media in more than 30 countries.

RTNDA has long worked to preserve the free flow of information and open access that is essential to government accountability. We believe that Open Government Act will strengthen the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), and will renew focus on one of the bedrock principles of our democracy—an informed citizenry. As you wrote in your recent article in the LBJ Journal of Public Affairs, "Our national commitment to democracy and freedom is not merely some abstract notion. It is a very real and continuing effort, and an essential element of that effort is an open and accessible government."

Because we believe it will make FOIA more efficient and effective, RTNDA endorses this legislation. Please call upon us if we can assist in your efforts to pass this bill in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,



Barbara S. Cochran  
President

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MissouriNol  
Jefferson City, MO

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